

Tom Weber Resigns at O-G

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Thomas C. Weber has been one of Putnam County's most successful basketball coaches but has the misfortune of retiring following three disastrous seasons.

Overall, Weber's teams have won 170 victories and lost 138 with this year's tournament play to come. Forty-six of those losses have come within the last three years.

Weber started his coaching career in Glandorf in the 1957-58 season and became an immediate winner and for the last 15 years his name has been synonymous with the round ball sports in this area.

He coached at Glandorf for seven years, became the head coach when Ottawa and Glandorf high schools consolidated here in 1964 and has held the job ever since.

Tom turned in his letter of resignation to the board of education Tuesday night. He cited health problems as his reason for resigning.

The Weber family has had more than its share of health problems and Tom himself spent the first part of this past basketball season in the hospital. It was then that he really made up his mind that this would be his last year, he said, as he realized that although basketball is really his first love as far as occupation is concerned, he has had to give up too much of his family for it.

EXCEPT TO mention his intentions to the principal and superintendent, Weber kept it secret until he made his first announcement to his players following the game at Delphos Saturday night.

"It was the hardest decision I have ever had to make in my life," Tom said afterwards. He had hoped to coach one more winner before bowing out, and he feels that that could have been next year.

Although a hard driver and often time's explosive on the basketball floor, Weber was never one to criticize any of his boys. Even last year when they did not win a game, Weber often spoke highly of them,

saying that they at least gave it all they had and stuck with it to the bitter end.

Although he has had five straight losing seasons, Weber can look back upon many winners and trophy cases at Glandorf and Ottawa-Glandorf will long attest to some of his great teams,

DURING HIS first three years at Ottawa-Glandorf he did something that has never been equaled in Putnam County and that was to win the Putnam County League three consecutive years and not lose a league game during that time.

Before that he put Glandorf on the map. Glandorf had never been much of a powerhouse in basketball, but in the 1960-61 season they finally won their first Putnam County League championship. They won the county tournament that year and were runner-up the next year and were sectional champions in '61, '62 and '64.

The final year that the Glandorf School was in existence was the greatest. Although the league championship eluded them, they won the county, sectional and district tournaments before losing in the regional finals. His Glandorf teams never finished below fourth in the league and when the school closed, Weber had piled up a 97-57 won-lost record.

In his first three years at Ottawa-Glandorf, his teams won 51 and lost only nine, but this may have been his undoing. After completely dominating the Putnam County League for that period he was politely told that Ottawa-Glandorf was no longer welcome in the league.

THE SCHOOL moved to the Western Buckeye League and Weber consistently put together one of the toughest schedules in Northwestern Ohio. With the exception of Lima Senior and Findlay, no school in this area has played more rugged competition, but during the past five years the local fortunes have fallen and the Titans have won only 24 and lost 72 in that time.

Weber's 1966-67 team is considered by many to be the greatest team ever in

Putnam County. They won 18 that year and lost only two, both to Lima Senior. That was another year that Weber was beset with family problems. One of his sons was struck deathly ill just prior to tournament and Tom had to spend the week in the hospital and was unable to prepare his team for the tournament. He still regrets this to this day.

There were just two size classifications at that time yet, and O-G was playing with the big schools. The Lima team knocked them out of the tournament and the Spartans went all the way to the regional finals.

One of Weber's players received All-State and All-American honors and several received college scholarships.

WEBER WAS elected coach of the year in Putnam County 1960-61 and was a finalist for coach of the year in the Lima area in 1963-64 and 1966-67. He received votes for coach of the year in the Northwest District in 1963-64.

He is a member of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, receiving this honor in 1965. He has been inducted into the Bike Chemical Company Century Club and the Wilson Sporting Goods 100 victory club, for both basketball and baseball receiving these honors in 1967.

In addition to coaching high school basketball, he coached baseball for eight years, and compiled a record of 130 wins and 91 losses. His baseball teams won two league championships and were runners-up four times. He also coached track two years.

Weber intends to keep his position as athletic director at the school and will continue as an industrial arts teacher. He has been director of the Ottawa summer recreation programs for four years and has re-applied for the job again this year.

In his letter of resignation Weber, recommended that David Laudick who has been his assistant for 11 years, be elevated to the position of head coach.